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NPIC/CSD-424/65
3 August 1965

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SOVIET MARINE SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN CUBA

1. ACCORDING TO A STUDY CONDUCTED BY "USNAVPIK" AND REPORTED OUT IN FEBRUARY 1964, AN UNKNOWN ACTIVITY OF TREMENDOUS MAGNITUDE WAS BEING CONDUCTED OFF THE COAST OF CUBA.

"IN LATE 1960, A VERY UNUSUAL GRID PATTERN OF UNDERWATER OBJECTS WAS PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE GULF OF BATABANO. RESEARCH OF OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE FILES AND FILM REVEALS THESE OBJECTS WERE PROBABLY NOT PRESENT IN THE EARLY 1950'S.

"PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REVEALED THE PATTERN CONSISTED OF CIRCULAR AND RECTANGULAR OBJECTS ARRANGED IN LONG STRAIGHT LINES COVERING AN AREA APPROXIMATELY 25 MILES LONG AND 15 MILES WIDE. WATER DEPTH IN THIS AREA RANGES FROM SIX TO 18 FT.

"AT LEAST 1,000 CIRCULAR OBJECTS (APPROXIMATELY 120 FT. IN DIAMETER) ARE ARRANGED IN FOUR PARALLEL LINES ORIENTED N/S FROM CAYO TABLONES TO CAYO JUAN RUIZ. THREE PARALLEL E/W LINES CROSS AT RIGHT ANGLES APPROXIMATELY MIDWAY BETWEEN THE ISLANDS.

"AT LEAST 700 RECTANGULAR OBJECTS (APPROXIMATELY 420 FT

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GROUP 1
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downgrading and
declassification

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LONG AND 60 FT WIDE) ARE ARRANGED SIMILARLY WITH TWO N/S AND FOUR E/W LINES. ONE DIAGONAL NW/SE LINE INTERSECTS THE ENTIRE PATTERN.

"SIMILAR CIRCULAR OBJECTS OR SCARS HAVE BEEN NOTED IN SEVERAL AREAS CLOSE INSHORE OFF THE COAST AND SURROUNDING ISLANDS OF CUBA. THESE MAY OR MAY NOT BE RELATED.

"SEVERAL THEORIES WERE INVESTIGATED, E.G., PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, FISH TRAPS OR BREEDING GROUNDS, MILITARY MINING OR TRAINING, ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC DEVICES, HYDROLOGICAL SURVEYS, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, ETC., BUT ALL WERE REJECTED.

2. IN MARCH 1965, A UPI NEWS RELEASE REVEALED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE UNDERWATER OBJECTS HAD BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE. TIME MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT MR. JAY MALLAN WAS VIEWED ON MIAMI TELEVISION ON 25 OR 26 MARCH, AND WAS NOTED SAYING THERE HAS BEEN "MYSTERIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORK CARRIED OUT AT A POINT IN THE SEA BETWEEN CUBA ITSELF AND THE ISLE OF PINES". HE WENT ON TO SAY " THE UNDERWATER WORK HAS BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED BY RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND THAT FLY OVER CUBA PERIODICALLY". THE UPI NEWS REPORTER CONTINUED RELATING THE STORY: "MALLAN DID NOT DISCLOSE THE SOURCE OF HIS INFOR-

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MATION BUT SAID IT WAS VERY AUTHORITATIVE". AMERICAN EXPERTS WHO HAVE STUDIED THE PICTURES ARE 'PUZZLED' BY THEM." THE REPORTER SAID, QUOTING MALLAN'S WORDS, THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WAS IDENTIFIED (BY MALLAN) AS UNDERWATER SUBMARINE PENS OR UNDERWATER LAUNCHERS CAPABLE OF FIRING LONG-RANGE MISSILES.

3. A CONCERTED U.S. OIL COMPANY SPONSORED PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PROGRAM BEGAN IN CUBA IN 1954 AND LASTED UNTIL 1959. IN AUG 60, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATED THE U.S. OIL INVESTMENTS, INCLUDING ALL FILES OF GEOPHYSICAL DATA AND EXPLORATION MAPS. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT THEN BEGAN A MODEST EXPLORATION PROGRAM WITH THE U.S. DATA. SOVIET TECHNICIANS BEGAN USING THE CONFISCATED GEOPHYSICAL DATA IN 1960.
4. REVEALED THAT THE MARINE GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON THE SOUTHERN COAST HAD BEEN ENLARGED TO COVER AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 15 X 25 MILES AND COINCIDED EXACTLY WITH THE PREVIOUS U.S. EXPLORATION EFFORT. THE SOVIET SHOT PATTERNS CONSIST OF TWO TYPES; A 4 SHOT IN-LINE GROUP WHICH LEAVES A RECTANGULAR SCAR, AND A DOUBLE SHOT GROUP. THE U.S. USES A SINGLE SHOT GROUP WHICH LEAVES A CIRCULAR BOTTOM SCAR.
5. , REVEALS THAT THE SOVIET HAVE NOT ONLY CONCENTRATED ON GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION BUT HAVE BEGAN "WILDCAT"

25X1

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EXPLORATION AS WELL. THE URALSMOSH 3D DEEP DRILLING RIG WHICH
IS LOCATED ON CAYO FRANCIS IS CAPABLE OF PENETRATING APPROX-
IMATELY 12,000 FT.

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